



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

Feb. 19, 2015

Man Sentenced to Death for 2008 Murder of Lancaster Family

A 24-year-old man was sentenced to death today for killing a woman and her three young daughters and then setting their Lancaster home on fire, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Robert Sherwood, Assistant Head Deputy of the Antelope Valley Branch, said a jury recommended the death penalty for Corey Lynn King on Dec. 30, 2014 after finding him guilty of four counts of first-degree murder with the special circumstance allegations of multiple murders and torture for three of the victims in case MA043389.

King also was found guilty of one count each of arson of an inhabited structure and grand theft auto.

The bodies of Sonya Durfield Harris, 43, and her three young daughters Ebony Horton, 14; Melina Harris, 12; and Kayla Clark, 9, were discovered in their Avenue J-3 home by firefighters on Sept. 9, 2008.

King had poured gasoline over the victims and throughout the house and then set the bodies and home on fire, the prosecutor said.

Before setting the fire, the defendant stabbed Harris and her 14-year-old daughter more than 50 times. The 12-year-old victim also was stabbed and additionally beaten and stomped to death. Nine-year-old Kayla was strangled by King, according to evidence presented at trial.

During the penalty phase of the trial the jury heard evidence that King committed another murder in Altadena a few months before the Lancaster killings. In that case, King allegedly bludgeoned a 90-year-old woman to death and then set her house on fire, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

###

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.